

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 163218

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:DMORAN

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:MTANNER

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R 110840Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCEUR

CNO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163218

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT BONN 11221 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV

ROME NATO GENEVA JULY 10, 1975

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11221

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, GW, US, IS

SUBJECT: PHM SALES TO ISRAEL

REF: BONN 9334

DEPARTMENT PASS TO SECDEF, CINCEUR, CNO

GENEVA PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. WE WERE CALLED TO THE FMOD ON JULY 9 BY A MEMBER OF
DEFMIN LEBER'S IMMEDIATE STAFF TO RECEIVE THE GERMAN
POSITION REGARDING THE PROPOSED SALE OF PATROL HYDRO-
FOILS (PHM) TO ISRAEL. THE OFFICIAL READ FROM A
POSITION PAPER AGREED UPON BY FMOD AND THE FOREIGN
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PAGE 02 STATE 163218

OFFICE. HE EMPHASIZED THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF

THIS MATTER WHICH PRECLUDED PROVIDING A WRITTEN ANSWER TO US INQUIRIES.

2. THE THREE-FOLD GERMAN DECISION WAS PRESENTED TO US AS FOLLOWS:

- A) THERE IS NO GERMAN OBJECTION TO THE EXPORT OF HYDRO-FOILS BY THE US TO ISRAEL PROVIDED THOSE HYDROFOILS EXPORTED ARE PRODUCED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE UNITED STATES.
- B) ADHERENCE TO CORRESPONDING NATO PROCEDURES (SINCE IT IS A NATO PROJECT) IS A US RESPONSIBILITY.
- C) FINANCIAL QUESTIONS WHICH DERIVE FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS A JOINT PROJECT MUST BE SETTLED ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS WITH THE US.

3. OUR SOURCE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE MUCH FURTHER INFORMATION BEYOND THE TERSE PHRASING OF THE DECISION PAPER. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES ASSUMED THAT US EXPERTS WOULD UNDERSTAND PRECISELY WHAT WAS MEANT BY POINTS B AND C. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE US HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, OUR SOURCE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE ANSWERS.

4. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, IT HAS TAKEN THE GERMANS A PAINSTAKINGLY LONG TIME TO REACH THIS PARTICULAR DECISION. OUR FMOD SOURCE SAID THE CULPRIT IN THE MATTER WAS THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH CONTINUED TO DRAG ITS FEET BECAUSE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE ULTIMATE GERMAN DECISION WAS FAVORABLE, AND OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE GERMAN REPLY REPRESENTED A CLEAR GO-AHEAD SIGNAL. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, HYDROFOIL CRAFT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE163218
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:DMORAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750240-0139
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750763/aaaaceoo.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 BONN 9334
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHM SALES TO ISRAEL
TAGS: MASS, IT, GE, US, IS
To: USCINCEUR CNO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006